

CITY OF RAYMOND

November 16, 2006

Chairman Kevin Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Room 8-B201
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Public Safety Communications

Dear Chairman:


At this time, our nation's public safety system lacks a seamless nationwide secondary data network. In order for our first responders to function efficiently, they need a reliable secondary network for emergency communications and everyday administration.

I recently discovered that a proposal has been laid on the table that will provide a free, redundant network for all public safety organizations. In addition, this will come at no cost to federal or state governments. I think this is an idea worth more than contemplation.

In recent years, we have seen the need for a more civilized communication system among first responders. Now that we have the chance to improve the system, we should. I have heard of other proposals of this nature, but in those cases, the taxpayer would bear the burden. Why make the taxpayers responsible when the market has generated a solution?

The bottom line is that something needs to be done to improve how our public safety system communicates. I ask you to consider the proposal at hand for free broadband wireless internet access so that we can avoid the miscommunication closely associated with disasters such as Katrina and 9/11.

Sincerely,



Chief Jason Croftwell
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City of Raymond
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CC: Senator Thad Cochran
Senator Trent Lott
Congressman Chip Pickering
Commissioner Copps
Commissioner Adelstein
Commissioner Tate
Commissioner McDowell
FCC Secretary Marlene Dortch
Kathy Seidel, Acting Chief, Wireless Bureau